What is claimed is:

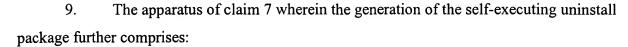
- A computer implemented method for automatically uninstalling a software application resident on at least one computer terminal in a network, the method comprising: identifying the steps required to uninstall the software application resident on a model computer;
 - generating a self-executing uninstall package from the information obtained in the identifying step, said self-executing uninstall package adapted to automatically remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal;
 - transmitting the self-executing uninstall package to the at least one terminal whereupon the self-executing uninstall package will automatically remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal.
- 2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the self-executing uninstall package is generated by executing the steps of:
 - removing the software application from the model computer by using a corresponding uninstall program having a plurality of executable uninstall options, wherein said uninstall program is adapted to interface with a user in order to select which of the plurality of executable uninstall options are executed;
 - recording the uninstall options selected from the plurality of executable uninstall options within the uninstall program;
 - generating the self-executing uninstall package from the recorded selected uninstall option within the uninstall program.
- 3. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the self-executing uninstall package is generated by executing the steps of:
 - installing the software application on a model computer;
 - maintaining a record of the software application's install-time activities on the model computer;

generating the self-executing uninstall package from the record of the software application's install-time activities.

- 4. The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the self-executing uninstall package contains a minimum number of run-time components required for removal of the software application from the at least one computer terminal.
- 5. The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step includes:
 - identifying at least one specific computer terminal from which the software application will be removed;
 - transmitting the self-executing uninstall package solely to the at least one specific computer terminal whereupon the self-executing uninstall package executes and removes the software application.
 - 6. The computer implemented method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of: maintaining a record of the model computer's file system prior to installation of the software application;
 - installing the software application and subsequently executing the self-executing uninstall package on the model computer;
 - verifying the self-executing uninstall package completely removed the software application by comparing the model computer's resulting file system to the maintained pre-installation record of the model computer's file system;
 - modifying the self-executing uninstall package so that the model computer's file system after executing the self-executing uninstall package is equivalent to the maintained pre-installation record of the model computer's file system.

- 7. An apparatus in a model computer for automatically uninstalling a software application resident on at least one computer terminal in a network, the apparatus comprising:

 a detection module adapted to identify all the removal steps required to uninstall the software application from the at least one computer terminal;
 - a generation module adapted to create a self-executing uninstall package from the identified removal steps in the detection module, said self-executing uninstall package adapted to remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal; and
 - a transmission module adapted to transmit the self-executing uninstall package to the at least one computer terminal whereupon the self-executing uninstall package automatically executes and removes the software application.
- 8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the generation of the self-executing uninstall package further comprises:
 - an uninstall program, resident on the model computer, containing a plurality of executable uninstall options corresponding to the removal of the software application, said uninstall program adapted to interface with a user in order to select which of the plurality of executable uninstall options are executed;
 - the detection module being further adapted to record the uninstall program's selection of the executable uninstall options from the plurality of executable uninstall options;
 - the generation module being further adapted to generate the self-executing uninstall package from the recorded selection of executable uninstall options by the uninstall program.



- the detection module being further adapted to record the software application's install-time activities during installation and identify the removal steps required to remove the software application;
- the generation module being further adapted to create the self-executing uninstall package from the identified removal steps in the detection module.
- 10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the self-executing uninstall package contains a minimum set of run-time components required to uninstall the software application.
 - 11. The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising:
 - the model computer maintaining a first record of the file system and registry prior to the installation of the software application;
 - the self-executing uninstall package removing the software application from the model computer
 - the model computer creating a second record of the file system and registry after the software application is removed;
 - a verification module adapted to compare the first record of the file system and registry to the second record of the file system and registry;
 - the generation module further adapted to modify the self-executing software application to ensure both records of the model computer's file system and registry are equivalent after the software application is removed.
 - 12. A computer program product comprising:
 - a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing the removal of software applications resident on a plurality of computer terminals on a network, the computer program product including:
 - a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the identification of the steps required to remove the software application from a model computer;

- a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the generation of an automatically self-executing uninstall package from the identified steps required to remove the software application from at least one computer terminal on the network;
- a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the transmission of the self-executing uninstall package to the at least one computer terminal whereupon the self-executing uninstall package will execute and remove the software application from the at least one computer terminal.
- 13. The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the generation of the self-executing uninstall package further comprises:
 - a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the removal of the software application from the model computer by using a corresponding uninstall program having a plurality of executable uninstall options, said uninstall program adapted to interface with a user in order to select which of the executable uninstall options is executed;
 - a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the monitoring of the selection of the executable uninstall options;
 - a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the generation of the self-executing uninstall package from the selection of the executable uninstall options.
- 14. The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the generation of the self-executing uninstall package further comprises:
 - a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the maintenance of a record of the software application's install-time activities;
 - a computer readable program code device configured to cause a computer to effect the generation of the self-executing uninstall package from the maintained record of the software application's install-time activities.

